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M E S S A G E
OF THE
President of the United States
TO
BOTH HOUSES
OF
CONGRESS.

April 3d, 1798.

In Senate
Of the United States.

APRIL 5th, 1798.

ORDERED, that five hundred copies of the
Message of the President of the United States, of
the third instant, together with the dispatches
from the Envoys to the French Republic, ac-
companying the same, be published for the use
of the Senate.

*Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.*

In compliance with the request of the House of Representatives, expressed in their resolution of the second of this month, I transmit to both Houses, *those instructions to and dispatches from, the envoys extraordinary of the United States to the French Republic*, which were mentioned in my message of the nineteenth of March last, omitting only some names, and a few expressions descriptive of the persons.

I request that they may be considered in confidence, until the members of Congress are fully possessed of their contents, and shall have had opportunity to deliberate on the consequences of their publication ; after which time I submit them to your wisdom.

JOHN ADAMS.

*United States, }
April 3d, 1798. }*

LETTERS of CREDENCE and FULL POW-
ERS to the Envoys from the United
States to the French Republic.

C R E D E N C E

For Messrs. Pinckney, Marshall and Gerry,
Envoys to France.

JOHN ADAMS, President of the United States of
America,

To the Executive Directory of the French Re-
public.

Citizens Directors,

DESIROUS of terminating all differences be-
tween the United States of America and the
French Republic, and of restoring that harmony
and good understanding, and that commercial
and friendly intercourse, which from the com-
mencement of their political connection, until
lately, have so happily subsisted, I have nomi-
nated and by and with the advice and consent of
the Senate of the United States, appointed Charles
Cotesworth Pinckney, John Marshall, and El-
bridge Gerry, distinguished citizens of these
States, jointly and severally, Envoys Extraordina-
ry and Ministers Plenipotentiary to the French Re-

public, for the purpose of accomplishing the great objects abovementioned : Wherefore I pray you, Citizens Directors, to give full credence to what they and each of them shall say to you in these respects, in behalf of the United States, and also when they shall assure you of the sincerity of our wishes for the welfare of the French Republic.

GIVEN under my hand and the great seal of the United States of America, at Philadelphia, the thirteenth day of July, in the year 1797, and of the Independence of these States the twenty-second.

JOHN ADAMS.

By the President of the United States,
TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of State.



FULL POWERS

To Messrs. Pinckney, Marshall and Gerry, Envoys to France.

JOHN ADAMS, President of the United States of America,

To all whom these presents shall concern—
Greeting :

KNOW YE, That for the purpose of terminating all differences, between the United States of America and the French Republic, and of restoring and confirming perfect harmony and good understanding, and re-establishing a com-

mercial, and friendly intercourse between them, and reposing especial trust and confidence in the integrity, prudence and abilities of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, John Marshall, and Elbridge Gerry, citizens of the said United States, I have nominated, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed the said Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, John Marshall, and Elbridge Gerry, jointly and severally Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Republic, hereby giving and granting to them and any and each of them, full power and authority, and also a general and special command, for and in in the name of the United States to meet and confer with the Ministers, Commissioners or deputies of the French Republic, being furnished with the like full powers, whether separately or jointly, and with them to treat, consult and negotiate, of and concerning all claims, and all matters and causes of difference, subsisting between the United States and the French Republic, for the purpose of satisfying and terminating the same in a just and equitable manner; and also of and concerning the general commerce between the United States and France and all other the dominions of the French Republic; and to conclude and sign a treaty or treaties, convention or conventions, touching the premises; transmitting the same to the President of the United States of America for his final ratification, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate

of the United States, if such advice and consent shall be given.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed,

GIVEN under my hand at the City of Philadelphia, the twenty-second day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the twenty-first.

JOHN ADAMS.

By the President of the United States,
TIMOTHY PICKERING,
Secretary of State.

Department of State, April 3d, 1798.

THE Names designated by the letters W. X. Y. Z. in the following copies of letters from the Envoys of the United States to the French Republic, are, in the originals, written at full length, in cyphers. For the same reason that single letters are thus taken to designate certain persons named in the letters, other words descriptive of them are omitted.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.

(No. 1.)

Paris, October 22d, 1797.

Dear Sir,

ALL of us having arrived at Paris on the evening of the fourth instant, on the next day we verbally and unofficially informed the minister of foreign affairs therewith, and desired to know when he would be at leisure to receive one of our secretaries with the official notification : he appointed the next day at two o'clock ; when Major Rutledge waited on him with the following letter :

Citizen Minister,

The United States of America being desirous of terminating all differences between them and the French Republic, and of restoring that harmony and good understanding, and that commercial and friendly intercourse, which from the common cement of their political connection until lately have so happily subsisted, the President has nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate has appointed us, the undersigned, jointly and severally Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary to the French Republic, for the purpose of accomplishing these great objects. In pursuance of such nomination and appointment and with such view having come to Paris, we wish, Citizen Minister, to wait on you at any hour you will be pleased to appoint, to present the copy of our letters of credence ; and whilst we evince our sincere and ardent desire for the speedy re-

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floration of friendship and harmony between the two republics, we flatter ourselves with your concurrence in the accomplishment of this desirable event. We request you will accept the assurances of our perfect esteem and consideration.

Paris, October 6th, in the 22d }
year of American Independence. }

(Signed)

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,
JOHN MARSHALL,
ELBRIDGE GERRY.

To this letter the minister gave a verbal answer, that he would see us the day after the morrow (the 8th) at one o'clock. Accordingly at that hour and day we waited on the minister at his house, where his office is held, when, being informed he was not at home, the secretary-general of the department told Major Rutledge, that the minister was obliged to wait on the Directory and requested we would suspend our visit till three o'clock. At which hour we called. The minister we found was then engaged with the Portuguese minister, who retired in about ten minutes, when we were introduced and produced the copy of our letters of credence, which the minister perused and kept. He informed us, "that the Directory had required him to make a report relative to the situation of the United States with regard to France, which he was then about, and which would be finished in a few days, when he

" would let us know what steps were to follow." We asked if cards of hospitality were in the mean time necessary? He said they were, and that they should be delivered to us; and he immediately rung for his secretary and directed him to make them out. The conversation was carried on by him in French, and by us in our own language.

The next day cards of hospitality were sent to us and our secretaries, in a style suitable to our official character.

On Saturday the 14th, Major Mountflorencia informed General Pinckney, that he had a conversation with Mr. Osmond, the private and confidential secretary of the minister of foreign affairs, who told him, that the Directory were greatly exasperated at some parts of the President's speech, at the opening of the last session of Congress, and would require an explanation of them from us. The particular parts were not mentioned. In another conversation on the same day the secretary informed the major, that the minister had told him it was probable we should not have a public audience of the Directory till such time as our negotiation was finished, that probably persons might be appointed to treat with us, but they would report to him, and he would have the direction of the negotiation. The Major did not conceal from Mr. Osmond his intention to communicate these conversations to us.

In the morning of October the eighteenth, Mr. W. . . . of the house of

called on General Pinckney and informed him, that a Mr. X. who was in Paris and whom the General had seen was a gentleman of considerable credit and reputation and that we might place great reliance on him.

In the evening of the same day Mr. X. called on General Pinckney and after having sat some time whispered him, that he had a message from M. Talleyrand to communicate, when he was at leisure. General Pinckney immediately withdrew with him into another room; and when they were alone Mr. X. said, that he was charged with a business in which he was a novice; that he had been acquainted with M. Talleyrand and that he was sure he had a great regard for [America] and its citizens; and was very desirous, that a reconciliation should be brought about with France; that to effectuate that end, he was ready, if it was thought proper, to suggest a plan, confidentially, that M. Talleyrand expected would answer the purpose. General Pinckney said he should be glad to hear it. M. X. replied, that the Directory, and particularly two of the members of it, were exceedingly irritated at some passages of the President's speech, and desired that they should be softened; and that this step would be necessary previous to our reception: that besides this, a sum of money was required for the pocket of the Directory and ministers,

which would be at the disposal of M. Talleyrand : and that a loan would also be insisted on. M. X. said, if we acceded to these measures, M. Talleyrand had no doubt that all our differences with France might be accommodated. On enquiry, M. X. could not point out the particular passages of the speech that had given offence, nor the quantum of the loan, but mentioned that the *douceur* for the pocket was twelve hundred thousand livres, about fifty thousand pounds sterling. General Pinckney told him, his colleagues and himself, from the time of their arrival here, had been treated with great slight and disrespect ; that they earnestly wished for peace and reconciliation with France ; and had been entrusted by their country with very great powers to obtain these ends, on honorable terms : that with regard to the propositions made, he could not even consider of them before he had communicated them to his colleagues : that after he had done so, he should hear from him. After a communication and consultation had, it was agreed, that General Pinckney should call on M. X. and request him to make his propositions to us all ; and for fear of mistakes or misapprehension, that he should be requested to reduce the heads into writing. Accordingly, on the morning of October the nineteenth, General Pinckney called on M. X. who consented to see his colleagues in the evening, and to reduce his propositions to writing. He said his communication was not immediately with M. Talleyrand, but thro' another gentleman, in whom M. Tal-

leyrand had great confidence : this proved afterwards to be M. Y.

At six in the evening M. X. came and left with us the first set of propositions ; which, translated from the French, are as follows : “ A
 “ person who possesses the confidence of the
 “ Directory, on what relates to the affairs of
 “ America, convinced of the mutual advanta-
 “ ges which would result from the re-establish-
 “ ment of the good understanding between the
 “ two nations, proposes to employ all of his
 “ influence to obtain this object. He will assist
 “ the commissioners of the United States in all
 “ the demands which they may have to make
 “ from the government of France, inasmuch
 “ as they may not be contradictory to those
 “ which he proposes himself to make, and of
 “ which the principal will be communicated
 “ confidentially. It is desired that in the offi-
 “ cial communications there should be given
 “ a softening turn to a part of the President’s
 “ speech to Congress, which has caused much
 “ irritation. It is feared that in not satisfying
 “ certain individuals in this respect, they may
 “ give way to all their resentment. The nom-
 “ ination of commissioners will be consented
 “ to on the same footing as they have been na-
 “ med in the treaty with England, to decide on
 “ the reclamations which individuals of Amer-
 “ ica may make on the government of France,
 “ or on French individuals. The payment
 “ which, agreeably to the decisions of the com-
 “ missioners, shall fall to the share of the French

“ government, are to be advanced by the A-
 “ merican government itself. It is desired that
 “ the funds which by this means shall enter
 “ again into the American trade, should be em-
 “ ployed in new supplies for the French colo-
 “ nies. Engagements of this nature on the
 “ part of individuals reclaiming will always haf-
 “ ten, in all probability, the decisions of the
 “ French commissioners : and perhaps it may
 “ be desired that this clause should make a part
 “ of the instructions which the government of
 “ the United States should give to the commis-
 “ sioners they may choose. The French go-
 “ vernment desires, besides, to obtain a loan
 “ from the United States ; but so that that
 “ should not give any jealousy to the English
 “ government, nor hurt the neutrality of the
 “ United States. This loan shall be masked by
 “ stipulating, that the government of the Unit-
 “ ed States consents to make the advances for
 “ the payment of the debts contracted by the
 “ agents of the French government with the
 “ citizens of the United States ; and which are
 “ already acknowledged, and the payment or-
 “ dered by the Directory, but without having
 “ been yet effectuated. There should be deliv-
 “ ered a note to the amount of these debts.
 “ Probably this note may be accompanied by
 “ ostensible pieces, which will guarantee to the
 “ agents the responsibility of the United States
 “ in case any umbrage should cause an enquiry.
 “ There shall also be first taken from this loan
 “ certain sums for the purpose of making the

“ customary distributions in diplomatic affairs.” The person of note mentioned in the minutes, who had the confidence of the Directory, he said, before us all, was M. Talleyrand. The amount of the loan he could not ascertain precisely, but understood it would be according to our ability to pay. The sum which would be considered as proper, according to diplomatic usage, was about twelve hundred thousand livres. He could not state to us what parts of the President’s speech were excepted to, but said he would enquire and inform us. He agreed to breakfast with Mr. Gerry the morning of the 21st, in order to make such explanations as we had then requested, or should think proper to request : but on the morning of the 20th M. X. called and said, that M. Y. the confidential friend of M. Talleyrand, instead of communicating with us thro’ M. X. would see us himself and make the necessary explanations. We appointed to meet him the evening of the twentieth at seven o’clock, in General Marshall’s room. At seven M. Y. and M. X. entered ; and the first mentioned gentleman, being introduced to us as the confidential friend of M. Talleyrand, immediately stated to us the favorable impressions of that gentleman toward our country, impressions which were made by the kindness and civilities he had personally received in America : that impressed by his solicitude to repay these kindnesses, he was willing to aid us in the present negociation by his good offices with the Directory, who were, he said, extreme-

ly irritated against the government of the United States, on account of some parts of the President's speech, and who had neither acknowledged nor received us, and consequently have not authorized M. Talleyrand to have any communications with us. The minister therefore could not see us himself, but had authorized his friend M. Y. to communicate to us certain propositions, and to receive our answers to them; and to promise on his part, that if we would engage to consider them as the basis of the proposed negociation, he would intercede with the Directory to acknowledge us, and to give us a public audience. M. Y. stated to us explicitly and repeatedly, that he was cloathed with no authority; that he was not a diplomatic character; that he was not . . . he was only the friend of M. Talleyrand and trusted by him; that with regard to himself he had .

and that he earnestly wished well to the United States. He then took out of his pocket a French translation of the President's speech, the parts of which objected to by the Directory were marked, agreeably to our request to M. X. and are contained in the exhibit A. Then he made us the second set of propositions, which were dictated by him and written by M. X. in our presence, and delivered to us, and which, translated from the French, are as follows. " There is demanded a formal disavowal in writing, declaring that the speech of the citizen President Barras did not contain any thing offensive to the

“ government of the United States, nor any thing
 “ which deserved the epithets contained in the
 “ whole paragraph : Secondly, reparation is de-
 “ manded for the article by which it shall be de-
 “ clared, that the decree of the Directory there
 “ mentioned did not contain any thing contrary
 “ to the treaty of 1778, and had none of those
 “ fatal consequences, that the paragraph re-
 “ proaches to it : Thirdly, it is demanded, that
 “ there should be an acknowledgment in wri-
 “ ting of the depredations exercised on our
 “ trade by the English and French privateers :
 “ Fourthly, the government of France, faith-
 “ ful to the profession of public faith which it
 “ has made not to intermeddle in the internal
 “ affairs of foreign governments with which it
 “ is at peace, would look upon this paragraph
 “ as an an attack upon its loyalty, if this was
 “ intended by the President. It demands, in
 “ consequence, a formal declaration, that it is
 “ not the government of France, nor its agents,
 “ that this paragraph meant to designate : In
 “ consideration of these reparations, the French
 “ Republic is disposed to renew with the Unit-
 “ ed States of America, a treaty which shall
 “ place them reciprocally in the same state
 “ that they were in 1778 : By this new treaty
 “ France shall be placed with respect to the
 “ United States, exactly on the same footing
 “ as they stand with England, in virtue of
 “ the last treaty which has been conclud-
 “ ed between them. A secret article of this
 “ new treaty would be a loan to be made

“ by the United States to the French Republic :
 “ and once agreed upon the amount of the loan,
 “ it would be endeavored to consult the convenience of the United States with respect to
 “ the best method of preventing its publicity.
 “ On reading the speech M. Y. dilated very
 “ much upon the keenness of the resentment
 “ it had produced, and expatiated largely on the
 “ satisfaction he said was indispensably necessary as a preliminary to negociation. But said
 “ he, gentlemen, I will not disguise from you,
 “ that, this satisfaction being made, the essential part of the treaty remains to be adjusted :
 “ il faut de l'argent—il faut beaucoup d'argent :” *you must pay money, you must pay a great deal of money.* He spoke much of the
 force, the honor and the jealous republican
 pride of France ; and represented to us strongly
 the advantages which we should derive from
 the neutrality thus to be purchased. He said,
 that the receipt of the money might be so disguised as to prevent its being considered as a
 breach of neutrality by England ; and thus save
 us from being embroiled with that power. Concerning the twelve hundred thousand livres little was said ; that being completely understood, on all sides, to be required for the officers of government, and therefore needing no further explanation. These propositions, he said, being considered as the admitted basis of the proposed treaty, M. Talleyrand trusted that, by his influence with the Directory, he could prevail on the government to receive us. We asked whe-

ther we were to consider it as certain that, without a previous stipulation to the effect required, we were not to be received. He answered, that M. Talleyrand himself was not authorized to speak to us the will of the Directory, and consequently could not authorize him. The conversation continued until half after nine, when they left us ; having engaged to breakfast with Mr. Gerry the next morning.

October 21st, M. X. came before nine o' clock : M. Y. did not come until ten—he had passed the morning with M. Talleyrand. After breakfast the subject was immediately resumed. He represented to us that we were not yet acknowledged or received ; that the Directory were so exasperated against the United States, as to have come to a determination to demand from us, previous to our reception, those disavowals, reparations and explanations, which were stated at large last evening. He said that M. Talleyrand and himself were extremely sensible of the pain we must feel in complying with this demand ; but that the Directory would not dispense with it : that therefore we must consider it as the indispensable preliminary to obtain our reception ; unless we could find the means to change their determination in this particular : that if we satisfied the Directory in these particulars, a letter would be written to us to demand the extent of our powers, and to know whether we were authorized to place them precisely on the same footing with England ;—whether, he said, our full powers were really and substantial-

ly full powers; or, like those of Lord Malmesbury, only illusory powers : that, if to this demand our answer should be affirmative, then France would consent that commissioners should be appointed to ascertain the claims of the United States, in like manner as under our treaty with England ; but from their jurisdiction must be withdrawn those which were condemned for want of a rôle d'équipage ; that being a point on which Merlin, while minister of justice, had written a treatise, and on which the Directory were decided. There would however be no objection to our complaining of these captures in the course of the negociation, and if we could convince Merlin by our reasoning, the minister would himself be satisfied with our so doing. We required an explanation of that part of the conversation, in which M. Y. had hinted at our finding means to avert the demand concerning the President's speech. He answered, that he was not authorized to state those means, but that we must search for them and propose them ourselves. If however we asked his opinion as a private individual, and would receive it as coming from him, he would suggest to us the means which in his opinion would succeed. On being asked to suggest the means he answered, money ; that the Directory were jealous of its own honor and of the honor of the nation ; that it insisted on receiving from us the same respect with which we had treated the King ; that this honor must be maintained in the manner before required, unless we substituted in the

place of those reparations something perhaps more valuable, that was, money. He said further, that if we desired him to point out the sum which he believed would be satisfactory, he would do so. We requested him to proceed ; and he said, that there were thirty-two millions of florins of Dutch inscriptions, worth ten shillings in the pound, which might be assigned to us at twenty shillings in the pound : and he proceeded to state to us the certainty, that after a peace, the Dutch government would repay us the money ; so that we should ultimately lose nothing ; and the only operation of the measure would be an advance from us to France of thirty-two millions, on the credit of the government of Holland. We asked him whether the fifty thousand pounds sterling, as a *douceur* to the Directory, must be in addition to this sum. He answered in the affirmative. We told him, that on the subject of the treaty, we had no hesitation in saying that our powers were ample : that on the other points proposed to us we would retire into another room, and return in a few minutes with our answer.

We committed immediately to writing the answer we proposed, in the following words :
 “ Our powers respecting a treaty are ample : but
 “ the proposition of a loan in the form of Dutch
 “ inscriptions, or in any other form, is not within
 “ the limits of our instructions ; upon this point
 “ therefore the government must be consulted :
 “ one of the American ministers will, for the
 “ purpose, forthwith embark for America : pro-

“ vided the Directoire will suspend all further
 “ captures on American vessels, and will suspend
 “ proceedings on those already captured, as well
 “ where they have been already condemned, as
 “ where the decisions have not yet been render-
 “ ed ; and that where sales have been made, but
 “ the money not yet received by the captors, it
 “ shall not be paid until the preliminary ques-
 “ tions, proposed to the ministers of the United
 “ States, be discussed and decided ;” which was
 read as a verbal answer ; and we told them they
 might copy it, if they pleased. M. Y. refused to
 do so : his disappointment was apparent : he
 said we treated the money part of the proposition
 as if it had proceeded from the Directory ;
 whereas in fact it did not proceed even from the
 minister, but was only a suggestion from himself,
 as a substitute to be proposed by us, in order to
 avoid the painful acknowledgment that the Di-
 rectory had determined to demand of us. It was
 told him, that we understood that matter perfect-
 ly ; that we knew the proposition was in form
 to be ours ; but that it came substantially from
 the minister. We asked what had led to our
 present conversation ? And General Pinckney
 then repeated the first communication from
 M. X. (to the whole of which that gentleman as-
 sented) and we observed that those gentlemen
 had brought no testimonials of their speaking
 any thing from authority ; but that relying on
 the fair characters they bore, we had believed
 them when they said they were from the minis-
 ter, and had conversed with them in like manner,

as if we were conversing with M. Talleyrand himself; and that we could not consider any suggestion M. Y. had made, as not having been previously approved of: but yet, if he did not chuse to take a memorandum in writing of our answer, we had no wish, that he should do so: and further, if he chose to give the answer to his proposition the form of a proposition from ourselves we could only tell him, that we had no other proposition to make, relative to any advance of money on our part: that America had sustained deep and heavy losses by French depredations on our commerce, and that France had alledged so [many] complaints against the United States, that on those subjects we came fully prepared, and were not a little surprized to find France unwilling to hear us; and making demands upon us which could never have been suspected by our government, and which had the appearance of our being the aggressing party. M. Y. expressed himself vehemently on the resentment of France; and complained, that instead of our proposing some substitute for the reparations demanded of us, we were stipulating certain conditions to be performed by the Directory itself; that he could not take charge of such propositions; and that the directory would persist in its demand of those reparations which he at first stated. We answered, that we could not help it: it was for the Directory to determine what course its own honor and the interests of France required it to pursue: it was for us to guard the interests and honor of our country. M. Y.

observed, that we had taken no notice of the first proposition, which was, to know whether we were ready to make the disavowal, reparations and explanations concerning the President's speech. We told him that we supposed it to be impossible, that either he or the minister could imagine, that such a proposition could require an answer : that we did not understand it as being seriously expected ; but merely as introductory to the subjects of real consideration.

He spoke of the respect which the directory required, and repeated, that it would exact as much as was paid to the ancient Kings. We answered that America had demonstrated to the world, and especially to France, a much greater respect for her present government than for her former monarchy ; and that there was no evidence of this disposition which ought to be required, that we were not ready to give. He said that we should certainly not be received ; and seemed to shudder at the consequences. We told him, that America had made every possible effort to remain on friendly terms with France ; that she was still making them : that if France would not hear us ; but would make war on the United States ; nothing remained for us, but to regret the unavoidable necessity of defending ourselves.

The subject of our powers was again mentioned ; and we told him, that America was solicitous to have no more misunderstandings with any Republic, but especially with France ; that she wished a permanent treaty, and was sensible,

that no treaty, could be permanent, which did not comport with the interests of the parties ; and therefore that he might be assured, that our powers were such as authorized us to place France on equal ground with England, in any respects in which an inequality might be supposed to exist at present between them, to the disadvantage of France. The subject of the rôle d'équipage was also mentioned ; and we asked what assurance could we have, if France insisted on the right of adding to the stipulations of our treaty, or of altering them by municipal regulations, that any future treaty we could make should be observed. M. Y. said that he did not assert the principle of changing treaties by municipal regulations ; but that the Directory considered its regulation concerning the rôle d'équipage as comporting with the treaty. We observed to him, that none of our vessels had what the French termed a rôle d'équipage, and that if we were to surrender all the property which had been taken from our citizens in cases where their vessels were not furnished with such a rôle, the government would be responsible to its citizens for the property so surrendered ; since it would be impossible to undertake to assert, that there was any plausibility in the allegation, that our treaty required a rôle d'équipage.

The subject of disavowals, &c. concerning the President's Speech was again mentioned ; and it was observed, that the Constitution of the United States authorized and required our President to communicate his ideas on the affairs of the nation ; that, in

obedience to the Constitution, he had done so ; that we had not power to confirm or invalidate any part of the President's Speech ; that such an attempt could produce no other effect than to make us ridiculous to the government and to the citizens at large of the United States ; and to produce, on the part of the President, an immediate disavowal and recall of us as his agents : that independent of this, all America was acquainted with the facts stated by the President ; and our disavowing them would not change the public sentiment concerning them.

We parted with mutual professions of personal respect, and with full indications, on the part of M. Y. of his expectation, that we should immediately receive the threatened letter.

The nature of the above communication will evince the necessity of secrecy ; and we have promised Messrs. X. and Y. that their names shall in no event be made public.

We have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient humble servants,

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,
J. MARSHALL,
E. GERRY.

P. S. October 27th, 1797. The Definitive Articles of Peace are signed between the French Republic and the Emperor : the particulars you will find in the public prints. The Portuguese Minister is ordered to quit France, as the Treaty with Portugal has not been yet ratified by the Queen. The Treaty itself is declared by the Directory to be void. Since our arrival at Paris the tribunal of cassation has rejected capt.

Scott's petition complaining of the condemnation of his vessel by the civil tribunal for the want of a Role d'Equipage. Mr. ——— in behalf of the owners of the American vessels, who have appealed in the last resort to the tribunal of cassation, informs, that notwithstanding all the arguments ——— made use of ——— to put off the hearing of the *Rosanna*, as a diplomatic case, till the issue of our negotiations is known, that case is set down for bearing and will come on the 29th or 30th inst. The same ——— also says, that it is obvious, that the tribunal have received instructions from the officers of the government to hasten their decisions, and that it was hardly worth while to ——— for all our petitions in cassation would be rejected. Our advocates ——— decline giving their sentiments on this subject ——— under an apprehension of committing themselves.

Col. Pickering, Sec'y of the United States.

Paragraphs of the PRESIDENT's Speech, referred to in Letter No. I. under title of exhibit A.

I.

With this conduct of the French government it will be proper to take into view the public audience, given to the late minister of the United States, on his taking leave of the Executive Directory. The speech of the President discloses sentiments more alarming than the refusal of a Minister, because more dangerous to our independence and union, and at the same time studiously marked with indignities against the government of the United States. It evinces a disposition to separate the people of the United States from the government; to persuade them, that they have different affections, principles and interests from those of their fellow citizens, whom they themselves have chosen to manage their common

concerns ; and thus to produce divisions fatal to our peace. Such attempts ought to be repelled with a decision, which shall convince France and the world, that we are not a degraded people, humiliated under a colonial sense of fear, fitted to be the miserable instruments of foreign influence, and regardless of national honor, character and interest.

II.

The diplomatic intercourse between France and the United States being at present suspended ; the government has no means of obtaining official information from that country : nevertheless there is reason to believe that the Executive Directory passed a decree, on the 2d of March last, contravening in part the treaty of amity and commerce of 1778, injurious to our lawful commerce and endangering the lives of our citizens. A copy of this decree will be laid before you.

III.

While we are endeavouring to adjust our differences with France, by amicable negotiation, the progress of the war in Europe, the depredations on our commerce, the personal injuries to our citizens, and the general complexion of affairs render it my indispensable duty to recommend to your consideration effectual measures of defence.

IV.

It is impossible to conceal from ourselves, or the world, what has been before observed, that endeavours have been employed to foster and establish a division between the government and people of the United States. To investigate the causes which have encouraged this attempt is not necessary. But to repel, by decided and united councils, insinuations so derogatory to the honor, and aggressions so dangerous to

the constitution, union and even independence of the nation, is an indispensable duty.

ANSWER OF M. BARRAS,

President of the Executive Directory, to the Speech of Mr. MONROE on taking leave, to which the Speech of the President of the United States refers.

M. Le Ministre Plénipotentiaire des Etats Unis d'Amérique,

En présentant aujourd'hui au Directoire Exécutif vos lettres de rappel, vous donnez à l'Europe une spectacle bien étrange.

La France, riche de sa liberté, entourée du cortège de ses victoires, fort de l'estime de ses alliés, ne s'abaissera pas à calculer les suites de la condescendance du gouvernement Américain pour les suggestions de ses anciens tyrans... La République Française espère, au surplus, que les successeurs de Columbus, Ramhiph et Penn, toujours fiers de leur liberté, n'oublieront jamais qu'ils la doivent à la France..... Ils préferont dans leur sagesse la magnanime bienveillance du peuple Française avec les astucieuses caresses de quelques perfides qui méditent de le ramener à son antique esclavage. Assurez, M. le Ministre, le bon peuple Américain que, comme lui, nous adorons la liberté ; que toujours il aura*

Mr. Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

By presenting to-day your letters of recall to the Executive Directory, you give to Europe a very strange spectacle.

France, rich in her liberty, surrounded by a crowd of victories, strong in the esteem of her allies, will not abase herself by calculating the consequences of the condescension of the American Government to the suggestions of her former tyrants. Moreover, the French Republic hopes, that the successors of Columbus, Ramhiph* and Penn, always proud of their liberty, will never forget, that they owe it to France. They will weigh in their wisdom, the magnanimous benevolence of the French people with the crafty caresses of certain perfidious persons who meditate bringing them back to their former slavery. Assure the good American people, Sir, that like them we adore liberty ; that

* * Probably intended for Raleigh.

(No. 2)

Paris, November 8th, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

We now enclose you in thirty-six quarto pages of cypher, and in eight pages of cyphered exhibits, the sequel to the details commenced in No. 1. dated the 22d. of last month, and have the honor to be,

Your most obedient humble servants,

CHARLES COTESWORTH PICKNEY,

J. MARSHALL,

E. GERRY,

Colonel PICKERING.

October 27th, 1797.

About twelve we received another visit from M. X. He immediately mentioned the great event announced in the papers, and then said, that some

notre estime, et qu'il trouvera, dans le peuple Français, la générosité républicaine qui sait accorder la paix comme elle sait faire respecter sa souveraineté.

Quant à vous, M. le Ministre plenipotentiaire, vous avez combattu pour les principes, vous avez connu les vrais intérêts de votre patrie...partez avec nos regrets. Nous rendons en vous un représentant à l'Amérique, et nous retenons le souvenir du citoyen dont les qualités personnelles honoraient ce titre.

they will always have our esteem, and that they will find in the French people republican generosity, which knows how to grant peace as it does to cause its sovereignty to be respected.

As to you, Mr. Minister Plenipotentiary, you have combatted for principles, you have known the true interests of your country. Depart with our regret. In you we give up a representative to America, and retain the remembrance of the citizen whose personal qualities did honor to that title.

propofals from us had been expected on the fubject on which we had before converfed ; that the Directory were becoming impatient and would take a decided courfe with regard to America, if we could not foften them. We answered, that on that fubject we had already fpoken explicitly, and had nothing farther to add. He mentioned the change in the ftate of things which had been produced by the peace with the emperor, as warranting an expectation of a change in our fyftem ; to which we only replied, that this event had been expected by us, and would not in any degree affect our conduct. M. X. urged that the Directory had fince this peace taken a higher and more decided tone with refpect to us and all other neutral nations than had been before taken ; that it had been determined, that all nations fhould aid them or be confidered and treated as their enemies. We answered that fuch an effect had already been contemplated by us as probable, and had not been overlooked when we gave to this propofition our decided answer ; and further that we had no powers to negotiate for a loan of money ; that our government had not contemplated fuch a circumftance in any degree whatever ; that if we fhould ftipulate a loan, it would be a perfectly void thing, and would only deceive France and expofe ourfelves. M. X. again expatiated on the power and violence of France : he urged the danger of our fituation, and preffed the policy of foftening them and of thereby obtaining time. The prefent men he faid would very probably not continue long in power ; and it would be very unfortunate if thofe who might fucceed, with better difpofitions towards us, fhould find the two nations in actual war. We answered, that if war fhould be made on us by France, it would be fo obviously forced on us, that on a change of men peace might be made with as much facility as the prefent differences could be accommo-

dated : we added, that all America deprecated a war with France ; but that our present situation was more ruinous to us than a declared war could be ; that at present our commerce was plundered unprotected ; but that if war was declared, we should seek the means of protection. M. X. said, he hoped we should not form a connection with Britain ; and we answered, that we hoped so too ; that we had all been engaged in our revolution war, and felt its injuries ; that it had made the deepest impression on us ; but that if France should attack us, we must seek the best means of self defence. M. X. again returned to the subject of money : said he, Gentlemen, you do not speak to the point ; it is money : it is expected that you will offer money. We said we had spoken to that point very explicitly : we had given an answer. No, said he, you have not ; what is your answer ? We replied ; it is no ; no ; not a sixpence. He again called our attention to the dangers which threatened our country, and asked, if it would not be prudent, though we might not make a loan to the nation, to interest an influential friend in our favor. He said we ought to consider what men we had to treat with ; that they disregarded the justice of our claims, and the reasoning with which we might support them ; that they disregarded their own colonies ; and considered themselves as perfectly invulnerable with respect to us ; that we could only acquire an interest among them by a judicious application of money ; and it was for us to consider whether the situation of our country did not require that these means should be resorted to. We observed, that the conduct of the French government was such as to leave us much reason to fear, that should we give the money, it would effect no good purpose, and would not produce a just mode of thinking with respect to us. Proof of this must first be given us. He said, that

when we employed a lawyer we gave him a fee, without knowing whether the cause could be gained or not; but it was necessary to have one, and we paid for his services, whether those services were successful or not: so in the present state of things, the money must be advanced for the good offices the individuals were to render, whatever might be the effect of those good offices. We told him there was no parallel in the cases; that a lawyer, not being to render the judgment, could not command success: he could only endeavour to obtain it; and consequently we could only pay him for his endeavours: but the Directory could decide on the issue of our negotiation. It had only to order that no more American vessels should be seized, and to direct those now in custody to be restored, and there could be no opposition to the order. He said, that all the members of the Directory were not disposed to receive our money: that Merlin, for instance, was paid from another quarter, and would touch no part of the douceur which was to come from us. We replied, that we had understood that Merlin was paid by the owners of the privateers; and he nodded an assent to the fact. He proceeded to press this subject with vast perseverance. He told us that we paid money to obtain peace with the Algerines and with the Indians; and that it was doing no more to pay France for peace. To this it was answered, that when our government commenced a treaty with either Algiers or the Indian tribes, it was understood that money was to form the basis of the treaty and was its essential article; that the whole nation knew it, and was prepared to expect it as a thing of course; but that in treating with France, our government had supposed that a proposition such as he spoke of, would, if made by us, give mortal offence. He asked if our government did not know, that nothing was to be obtained here without money?

We replied, that our government had not even suspected such a state of things. He appeared surprised at it, and said, there was not an American in Paris who could not have given that information. We told him that the letters of our Minister had indicated a very contrary temper in the government of France; and had represented it as acting entirely upon principle, and as feeling a very pure and disinterested affection for America. He looked somewhat surprised, and said briskly to general Pinckney: well, sir, you have been a long time in France and in Holland; what do you think of it? General Pinckney answered, that he considered M. X. and M. Y. as men of truth, and of consequence he could have but one opinion on the subject. He stated that Hamburg and other states of Europe were obliged to buy a peace; and that it would be equally for our interest to do so. Once more he spoke of the danger of a breach with France, and of her power which nothing could resist. We told him that it would be in vain for us to deny her power or the solicitude we felt to avoid a contest with it; that no nation estimated her power more highly than America, or wished more to be on amicable terms with her; but that one object was still dearer to us than the friendship of France, which was our national independence: that America had taken a neutral station: she had a right to take it: no nation had a right to force us out of it: that to lend a sum of money to a belligerent power abounding in every thing requisite for war but money, was to relinquish our neutrality and take part in the war: to lend this money under the lash and coercion of France, was to relinquish the government of ourselves, and to submit to a foreign government imposed upon us by force: that we would make at least one manly struggle before we thus surrendered our national independence: that our case was different from

that of one of the minor nations of Europe; they were unable to maintain their independence, and did not expect to do so: America was a great, and, so far as concerned her self-defence, a powerful nation; she was able to maintain her independence; and must deserve to lose it, if she permitted it to be wrested from her: that France and Britain had been at war for near fifty years of the last hundred, and might probably be at war for fifty years of the century to come; that America had no motives which could induce her to involve herself in those wars; and that if she now preserved her neutrality and her independence, it was most probable that she would not in future be afraid, as she had been for four years past: but if she now surrendered her rights of self-government to France, or permitted them to be torn from her, she could not expect to recover them, or to remain neutral in any future war. He said that France had lent us money during our revolution war, and only required that we should now exhibit the same friendship for her. We answered, that the cases were very different; that America solicited a loan from France, and left her at liberty to grant or refuse it: but that France demanded it from America, and left us no choice on the subject. We also told him there was another difference in the cases; that the money was lent by France for great national and French objects; it was lent to maim a rival and an enemy whom she hated: that the money, if lent by America, would not be for any American objects, but to enable France to extend still further her conquests. The conversation continued for nearly two hours; and the public and private advance of money was pressed and repressed in a variety of forms. At length M. X. said that he did not blame us; that our determination was certainly proper, if we could keep it: but he showed decidedly his opinion to be that we could not

keep it. He said that he would communicate, as nearly as he could, our conversation to the Minister, or to M. Y. to be given by him to the Minister; we are not certain which. We then separated. On the 22d. of October, M. Z. a French Gentleman of respectable character, informed Mr. Gerry, that M. Talleyrand, Minister of foreign relations, who professed to be well disposed towards the United States, had expected to have seen the American Ministers frequently in their private capacities; and to have conferred with them individually on the objects of their mission; and had authorized M. Z. to make this communication to Mr. Gerry. The latter sent for his colleagues; and a conference was held with M. Z. on the subject; in which General Pinckney and General Marshall expressed their opinions, that not being acquainted with M. Talleyrand they could not with propriety call on him; but that according to the custom of France he might expect this of Mr. Gerry from a previous acquaintance in America. This Mr. Gerry reluctantly complied with on the 23d. and with M. Z. called on M. Talleyrand, who, not being then at his office, appointed the 28th. for the interview. After the first introduction, M. Talleyrand began the conference. He said that the Directory had passed an *arrête*, which he offered for perusal, in which they had demanded of the envoys an explanation of some parts, and a reparation for others, of the President's speech to Congress of the 16th of May last: he was sensible, he said, that difficulties would exist on the part of the envoys relative to this demand; but that by their offering money, he thought he could prevent the effect of the *arrête*. M. Z. at the request of Mr. Gerry, having stated that the envoys have no such powers; M. Talleyrand replied, they can in such case take a power on themselves; and proposed that they should

make a loan. Mr. Gerry then addressed M. Talleyrand distinctly in English, which he said he understood, and stated, that the uneasiness of the Directory resulting from the President's speech was a subject unconnected with the objects of the mission; that M. Barras in his speech to Mr. Munroe, on his recall, had expressed himself in a manner displeasing to the government and citizens of the United States; that the President, as the envoys conceived, had made such observations on M. Barras' speech as were necessary to vindicate the honor of the United States; that this was not considered by our government as a subject of dispute between the two nations; that having no instructions respecting it, we could not make any explanations or reparations relating to it; and that M. Talleyrand himself was sufficiently acquainted with the constitution of the United States to be convinced of the truth of these observations. Mr. Gerry further stated, that the powers of the envoys, as they conceived, were adequate to the discussion and adjustment of all points of real difference between the two nations; that they could alter and amend the treaty; or, if necessary, form a new one; that the United States were anxiously desirous of removing all causes of complaint between themselves and France, and of renewing their former friendship and intercourse on terms which should be mutually honorable and beneficial to the two nations; but not on any other terms; that as to a loan, we had no powers whatever to make one; that if we were to attempt it we should deceive himself and the Directory likewise, which as men of honor we could not do; but that we could send one of our number for instructions on this proposition, if deemed expedient, provided that the other objects of the negotiation could be discussed and adjusted; that as he had expressed a desire to confer with the envoys individually, it was the wish of

Mr. Gerry that such a conference should take place and their opinions thus be ascertained, which he conceived corresponded with his own in the particulars mentioned. M. Talleyrand in answer said, he should be glad to confer with the other envoys individually, but that this matter about the money must be settled directly, without sending to America; that he would not communicate the *arrête* for a week; and that if we could adjust the difficulty respecting the speech, an application would nevertheless go to the United States for a loan. A courier arriving at this moment from Italy, and M. Talleyrand appearing impatient to read the letters, Mr. Gerry took leave of him immediately. He followed to the door, and desired M. Z. to repeat to Mr. Gerry what he, M. Talleyrand had said to him. Mr. Gerry then returned to his quarters with M. Z. took down the particulars of this interview, as before stated, sent for Generals Pinckney and Marshall, and read it to them in the presence of M. Z. who confirmed it. Generals Pinckney and Marshall then desired M. Z. to inform M. Talleyrand that they had nothing to add to this conference, and did not wish that the *arrête* might be delayed on their account.

October 29th.

M. X. again called on us. He said M. Talleyrand was extremely anxious to be of service to us, and had requested that one more effort should be made to induce us to enable him to be so. A great deal of the same conversation which had passed at our former interviews was repeated. The power and the haughtiness of France was again displayed to us. We were told that the destruction of England was inevitable; and that the wealth and arts of that nation would naturally pass over to America, if that event should find us in peace. To this observation we replied, that France would probably forbid America to

receive them, in like manner as she had forbid Switzerland to permit the residence in its country of a British minister. We told him also, that we were sensible of the value of peace, and therefore fought it unremittingly, but that it was real peace we fought for, and real peace only which could be desirable.

The sum of his proposition was, that if we would pay, by way of fees (that was his expression) the sum of money demanded for private use, the Directory would not receive us ; but would permit us to remain in Paris as we now were ; and we should be received by M. Talleyrand, until one of us could go to America and consult our government on the subject of the loan. These were the circumstances, he said, under which the minister of Portugal had treated. We asked him if, in the mean time, the Directory would order the American property not yet passed into the hands of the privateersmen, to be restored ? He said explicitly, that they would not. We asked him, whether they would suspend further depredations on our commerce ? He said they would not : but M. Talleyrand observed, that on this subject we could not sustain much additional injury, because the winter season was approaching, when few additional captures could be made. We told him that France had taken violently from America more than fifteen millions of dollars, and treated us in every respect as enemies, in return for the friendship we had manifested for her ; that we had come to endeavour to restore harmony to the two nations, and to obtain compensation for the injuries our countrymen had sustained ; and that in lieu of this compensation, we were told that if we would pay twelve hundred thousand livres, we might be permitted to remain in Paris ; which would only give us the benefit of seeing the plays and operas of Paris for the winter, that we might have time to ask from our country to exhaust her resources for France,

whose depredations would be continued. He again stated, that by this procedure we should suspend a war; and that perhaps in five or six months power might change hands.

We told him that what we wished to see in France was a temper sincerely friendly to the United States, and really disposed to do us justice; that if we could perceive this, we might not so much regard a little money, such as he stated to be usual, although we should hazard ourselves by giving it; but that we saw only evidences of the most extreme hostility toward us: war was made upon us so far as France could make it in the present state of things; and it was not even proposed, that on receiving our money this war should cease: we had no reason to believe that a possible benefit could result from it; and we desired him to say that we would not give a shilling, unless American property unjustly captured was previously restored, and further hostilities suspended; and that unless this was done, we did not conceive that we could even consult our government concerning a loan; that if the Directory would receive us and commence negotiations, and any thing occurred which rendered a consultation of the government necessary, one of us would return to America for that purpose. He said that without this money we should be obliged to quit Paris; and that we ought to consider the consequences: the property of the Americans would be confiscated, and their vessels in port embargoed. We told him that unless there was a hope of a real reconciliation, these evils could not be prevented by us; and the little delay we might obtain would only increase them; that our mission had induced many of our countrymen to trust their vessels into the ports of France, and that if we remained in Paris, that very circumstance would increase the number; and consequently the injury which our country-

men would sustain, if France could permit herself so to violate her own engagements and the laws of nations. He expressed a wish, that M. Y. should see us once more. We told him that a visit from M. Y. as a private gentleman, would always be agreeable to us; but if he came only with the expectation that we should stipulate advances of money, without previously establishing a solid and permanent reconciliation, he might save himself the trouble of the application, because it was a subject we had considered maturely, and on which we were immovable. He parted with us, saying, if that was the case it would not be worth while for M. Y. to come. In the evening, while Gen. Pinckney and Gen. Marshall were absent, M. Y. and M. X called, and were invited by Mr. Gerry to breakfast with us the next morning.

October 30th.

Immediately after breakfast the subject was resumed. M. Y. spoke without interruption for near an hour. He said that he was desirous of making a last effort to serve us, by proposing something which might accommodate the differences between the two nations; that what he was now about to mention had not by any means the approbation of the Directory; nor could M. Talleyrand undertake further than to make from us the proposition to the Directory, and use his influence for its success: that last week M. Talleyrand could not have ventured to have offered such propositions; but that his situation had been very materially changed by the peace with the emperor: by that peace he had acquired in an high degree the confidence of the Directory, and now possessed great influence with that body; that he was also closely connected with Buonaparte and the generals of the army in Italy; and was to be considered as firmly fixed in his post, at least for five or six months: that under these cir-

cumstances he could undertake to offer, in our behalf, propositions which before this increase of influence he could not have hazarded. M. Y. then called our attention to our own situation, and to the force France was capable of bringing to bear upon us. He said that we were the best judges of our capacity to resist, so far as depended on our own resources, and ought not to deceive ourselves on so interesting a subject. The fate of Venice was one which might befall the United States. But he proceeded to observe it was probable we might rely on forming a league with England. If we had such a reliance it would fail us. The situation of England was such as to compel Pitt to make peace on the terms of France. A variety of causes were in operation which made such an effect absolutely certain. To say nothing of the opposition in England to the minister and to the war, an opposition which the fears of the nation would increase; to say nothing of a war against England which was preparing in the north; an army of one hundred and fifty thousand men, under the command of Buonaparte, spread upon the coast of France, and aided by all the vast resources of his genius, would most probably be enabled to invade England; in which event their government would be overturned: but should this invasion not be absolutely effected, yet the alarm it would spread through the nation, the enormous expense it must produce, would infallibly ruin them, if it was to be continued; and would drive them to save themselves by a peace: that independent of this, France possessed means which would infallibly destroy their bank and their whole paper system. He said he knew very well it was generally conjectured that Buonaparte would not leave Italy and the army which had conquered under him and which adored him: he assured [us that] nothing could be more unfounded than the conjecture; that Buonaparte had

for more than ten days left Italy for Rastadt, to preside over the congress which was formed for adjusting the affairs of the empire. He said that Pitt himself was so confident of the absolute necessity of peace, that after the naval victory over the Dutch, he had signified his readiness to treat on the same terms which he had offered before that action: we could not then rely on the assistance of England. What, he asked, would be our situation if peace should be made with England before our differences with France would be accommodated? But, he continued, if even England should be able to continue the war, and America should unite with her, it would not be in our power to injure France. We might indeed wound her ally; but if we did it would be so much the worse for us. After having stated the dangers attending us, if we should engage in the war, he proceeded to the advantages we might derive from a neutral situation: and insisted at large on the wealth which would naturally flow into our country from the destruction of England. He next proceeded to detail the propositions which are in substance in the paper annexed, marked (A.) except that he insisted that we should engage to use our influence with our government for the loan. He stated expressly, that the propositions were to be considered as made by us; that M. Talleyrand would not be responsible for the success of any one of them; he would only undertake to use his influence with the Directory in support of them. The proposition, he said, concerning a suspension of hostilities on the part of France, was one which proceeded entirely from himself; M. Talleyrand had not been consulted upon it; and he could not undertake to say that that gentleman would consent even to lay it before the Directory. The proposition for an advance to the government of France of as much money as was due from it to our citizens on contract, and as might be deter-

mined to be due for vessels improperly captured and
 condemned, was, he said, indispensable: unless we
 made that it was unnecessary to make any other; for
 the others would not be received. He expatiated on
 the vast advantages we should derive from delay; it
 was, he said, absolutely to gain our cause. He re-
 turned to the danger of our situation and the policy
 of making with France any accommodation which
 France would assent to. Perhaps, said he, you believe
 that in returning and exposing to your countrymen
 the unreasonableness of the demands of this govern-
 ment, you will unite them in their resistance to those
 demands: you are mistaken: you ought to know that
 the diplomatic skill of France and the means she pos-
 sesses in your country, are sufficient to enable her,
 with the French party in America, to throw the blame
 which will attend the rupture of the negotiations on
 the Federalists, as you term yourselves, but on the
 British party, as France terms you; and you may
 assure yourselves this will be done. He concluded
 with declarations of being perfectly disinterested; and
 declared that his only motives for speaking thus freely
 were his friendship for M. Talleyrand, and his wish
 to promote the interests and peace of the United States.
 We told him that the freedom with which he had
 spoken, and which was agreeable to us, would induce
 us to speak freely also; and for once to accompany our
 view of the present state of things with a retrospect of
 the past: that America was the only nation upon earth
 which felt and had exhibited a real friendship for the
 Republic of France: that among the empires round
 her, which were compelled to bend beneath her power
 and to obey her commands, there was not one which
 had voluntarily acknowledged her government, or
 manifested for it, spontaneously, any mark of regard:
 America alone had stepped forward and given the
 most unequivocal proofs of a pure and sincere friend-

ship, at a time when almost the whole European world, when Austria, Germany, Prussia, Russia, Spain, Sardinia, Holland, and Britain, were leagued against France: when her situation was in truth hazardous, and it was dangerous to hold even friendly intercourse with her, America alone stood forward, and openly and boldly avowed her enthusiasm in favour of the Republic, and her deep and sincere interest in its fate. From that time to the present, the government and people of the United States have uniformly manifested a sincere and ardent friendship for France, and have, as they conceive, in no single instance given to this Republic just cause of umbrage: if they have done so, they wish it to be pointed out to them. After the determination of France to break off all regular intercourse with them, they have sent three Envoys Extraordinary to endeavour to make such explanations as might produce reconciliation: these envoys are prepared to investigate, and wish to investigate any measures which may have given offence; and are persuaded that they can entirely justify the conduct of their government. To this distant, unoffending, friendly Republic, what is the conduct and the language of France? Wherever our property can be found she seizes and takes it from us; unprovoked, she determines to treat us as enemies, and our making no resistance produces no diminution of hostility against us; she abuses and insults our government, endeavours to weaken it in the estimation of the people, recalls her own minister, refuses to receive ours, and when extraordinary means are taken to make such explanations as may do away misunderstandings, and such alterations in the existing relations of the two countries as may be mutually satisfactory and may tend to produce harmony, the Envoys who bear these powers are not received; they are not permitted to utter the amicable wishes of their country; but, in

the haughty style of a master, they are told that unless they will pay a sum to which their resources scarcely extend, that they may expect the vengeance of France, and like Venice be erased from the list of nations ; that France will annihilate the only free Republic upon earth, and the only nation in the universe which has voluntarily manifested for her a cordial and real friendship ! What impression must this make on the mind of America, if without provocation France was determined to make war upon us, unless we purchased peace ? We could not easily believe that even our money would save us : our independence would never cease to give offence, and would always furnish a pretext for fresh demands. On the advantages of neutrality it was unnecessary to say any thing : all the efforts of our government were exerted to maintain it ; and we would never willingly part with it. With respect to a political connection with Britain, we told him that America had never contemplated it. Whether the danger he represented that government to be in was or was not real we should not undertake to decide : Britain we believed had much reason to wish for peace ; and France had much reason to wish for peace also : if peace already existed it would not change the course America would pursue. M. Y. manifested the most excessive impatience : he interrupted us and said, This eloquent dissertation might be true : America might have manifested and he believed had manifested great friendship for France, and had just complaints against her ; but he did not come to listen to those complaints. The Minister would, on our request, make for us certain propositions to the Directory ; he had stated them to us ; and all the answer he wished was, yes or no ; did we or did we not solicit the Minister to make the propositions for us ? We told him that without going further into the discussion, we chose to remark one or two things : they

were, that the existing treaties gave to France certain advantages which were very essential; that especially the American coast afforded a protection near two thousand miles in extent to the prizes made by France on her enemies, and refused that protection to the prizes taken from her; that she might be assured, that in case of war these advantages would be lost for ever. We also told him we were convinced that France miscalculated on the parties in America: that the extreme injustice offered to our country would unite every man against her. M. X. informed us that M. Talleyrand would not consent even to lay this proposition before the Directory without previously receiving the fifty thousand pounds, or the greater part of it. M. Y. left in writing his propositions, and we returned the answer annexed and marked (B.)

November 1st.

It was at length agreed that we would hold no more indirect intercourse with the government.

November 3d.

M. X. called on us, and told General Pinckney and General Marshall (Mr. Gerry not being within) that M. Y. wished once more to see us. We answered, that we should at any time be glad to see M. Y. as a private gentleman: but that if his object was only to repeat his propositions for money, it was perfectly unnecessary to do so; because on that subject it was impossible for us to change the answer we had already given. We told him further, that we considered it as degrading our country to carry on further such an indirect intercourse as we had for some time submitted to, and had determined to receive no propositions, unless the persons who bore them had acknowledged authority to treat with us. He said that perhaps M. Y. might have written powers from the Minister; and we replied, that if he had we

should receive his communications with pleasure. He spoke of a probable peace with England, and, having requested us to be at home in the afternoon, left us.

About three o'clock he came, and after some conversation, in which we repeated in substance what is stated above, he shewed us a paper, which he said was a copy of a letter prepared for us, by M. Talleyrand, requesting an explanation of part of the President's speech, and which he said would be sent, unless we came into the propositions which had been made us. We wished to take a copy of it, which he declined permitting, saying, he was forbidden to allow it. We spoke of the letter coming to us as a measure we had no expectation of preventing; and he said he could not understand that we wished it delayed. To which we answered, that the delay of a few days could not be desired, unless a hope existed that the Directory might become more friendly to our country. He said that intelligence had been received from the United States, that if Colonel Burr and Mr. Madison had constituted the mission, the differences between the two nations would have been accommodated before this time. He added, as a fact he was not instructed to communicate, that M. Talleyrand was preparing a memorial to be sent out to the United States, complaining of us as being unfriendly to an accommodation with France. We replied to his intelligence from the United States, that the Minister's correspondents in America took a good deal on themselves, when they undertook to say how the Directory would have received Colonel Burr and Mr. Madison; and that with respect to the memorial of M. Talleyrand, it would not be easy for him to convince our countrymen, that the statements we should make were untrue: if, however, we were confident that our conduct would be condemned, M. Talleyrand might be assured that the fear of censure would not

induce us to deserve it : but that we should act in a manner which our own judgments and consciences would approve of ; and we trusted we should be supported by the great body of candid and honest men. In this conversation we again stated, that America had taken a neutral position ; that she had faithfully sought to preserve it ; that a loan of money to one of the belligerent powers was directly to take part in the war ; and that to take part in the war against her own judgment and will, under the coercion of France, was to surrender our independence.

E X H I B I T A.

[*Enclosed in the Envoy's Letter of November 8th,*
1797. No. 2.]

I.

The American Envoys shall remain here for six months, in the same manner and upon the same footing, with regard to etiquette, as did M. d'Aranjo, the envoy of Portugal.

II.

There shall be named a commission of five members, agreeably to a form to be established, for the purpose of deciding upon the reclamations of the Americans, relative to the prizes made on them by the French privateers.

III.

The American Envoys will engage, that their government shall pay the indemnifications, or the amount of the sums already decreed to the American creditors of the French Republic, and those which shall be adjudged to the claimants by the Commissioners. This payment shall be made under the name of an advance to the French Republic, who shall repay it in a time and manner to be agreed upon.

IV.

One of the American Envoys shall return to America, to demand of his government the necessary powers to purchase, for cash, the thirty-two millions of Dutch rescriptions, belonging to the French Republic, in case the Envoys should conclude a treaty which shall be approved by the two nations.

V.

In the interval, the definitive treaty shall proceed for the termination of all differences existing between the French Republic and the United States, so as that the treaty may be concluded immediately on the return of the Deputy.

VI.

The question of the Rôle d'équipage shall remain suspended until the return of the Deputy, and the commission shall not pronounce upon any reclamation where this point shall be in question.

VII.

During the six months granted for the going and returning of the Deputy, hostilities against the Americans shall be suspended as well as the process for condemnation before the tribunals; and the money of the prizes already condemned, in the hands of the civil officers of the nation, shall remain there, without being delivered to the privateers-men, until the return of the deputy.

E X H I B I T B.

[*Received with the Envoy's Letter No. 2. dated 8th November, 1797.*]

The Envoys extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States cannot avoid observing the very unusual situation in which they are placed by the manner in which they are alone permitted to make communications on the objects of their mission: They are called upon to pledge their country to a very great

amount, to answer demands which appear to them as extraordinary as they were unexpected, without being permitted to discuss the reason, the justice, or the policy on which those demands are founded, and not only without assurances that the rights of the United States will in future be respected; but without a document to prove that those to whom they are required to open themselves without reserve, and at whose instance they are called on to sacrifice so much, are empowered, even by the minister, to hold any communication with them: Yet such is the anxious and real solicitude of the Envoys to seize any occasion which may afford a hope, however distant, of coming to those explanations which they so much wish to make with this Republic, that they pass over the uncommon and informal modes which have been adopted, and will only consider the propositions themselves.

I.

The Ministers of the United States will permit no personal considerations to influence their negotiations with the French Republic. Although they expected that the extraordinary means adopted by their government to reconcile itself to that of France would have been received with some degree of attention, yet they are too solicitous to enter upon the important and interesting duty of their mission to permit themselves to be restrained by forms or etiquette.

II.

On this article it is believed there can be no disagreement.

III.

This article, as explained, would oblige the United States to advance, not to their own citizens, but to the government of France, sums equivalent to the depredations made by the corsairs of the Republic on the American commerce, and to the contracts made with their citizens by France; and this advance, in-

stead of benefiting the citizens of the United States, would leave them precisely what they now are, the creditors of the French Republic : the more extensive the depredations and the more considerable the contracts uncomplied with, the more would the government of France receive from the United States. Independent of these objections, the Ministers of the United States cannot engage to assume, in any form, the debts due from France to their fellow-citizens : they have no such power.

IV.

If the negotiations be opened, and the propositions for a loan, or any other propositions, exceeding the powers of the Ministers, be made, the government of the United States will be consulted thereon with expedition.

V.

This, or any proposition having for its object the claims of the two nations on each other, or an accommodation of differences, will be embraced with ardour by the Ministers of the United States.

VI.

It cannot escape notice, that the question of the *Rôle d'équipage* may involve in it every vessel taken from the United States : the Ministers however consider it, and wish to take it up, as a subject of negotiation.

VII.

On this article it is only to be observed, that the season of the year is such, as probably to render a return, within six months, of the Envoy, who might sail to the United States, impracticable : provision should be made for such an event.

If the difficulties attending the propositions for a loan and a compensation for past injuries be such as to require time for their removal, the Ministers of the United States propose that the discussions on the

relative situation of the two countries, may commence in the usual forms; that the relation to each other may be so regulated, as to obviate future misunderstandings; and that the adjustment of the claims of the citizens of the United States, whose vessels have been captured, may be made after a decision on the point first mentioned.

No diplomatic gratification can precede the ratification of the treaty.

(No. 3.)

Paris, November 27th, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

On the 11th instant we transmitted the following official letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

“ CITIZEN MINISTER,

“ The undersigned Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, had the honour of announcing to you officially, on the sixth of October, their arrival at Paris, and of presenting to you on the eighth, a copy of their letters of credence. Your declaration at that time, that a report on American affairs, was then preparing, and would in a few days be laid before the Directory, whose decision thereon should, without delay, be made known, has hitherto imposed silence on them. For this communication they have waited with that anxious solicitude which so interesting an event could not fail to excite, and with that respect which is due to the government of France. They have not yet received it, and so much time has been permitted to elapse, so critical is the situation of many of their countrymen, and so embarrassing is that of the undersigned, both as it respects themselves and the government they represent, that they can no longer dispense with the duty of soliciting your attention to their mission.

“ The United States, Citizen Minister, at an epoch which evinced their sincerity, have given incontestible proofs of their ardent friendship, of their affection for the French Republic : these were the result, not of her unparalleled prowess and power, but of their confidence in her justice and magnanimity ; and in such high estimation was the *reciprocity* of her friendship held by them, as to have been a primary object of national concern. The preservation of it was dear to them, the loss of it a subject of unfeigned regret, and the recovery of it by every measure, which shall consist with the rights of an independent nation, engages their constant attention. The government of the United States, we are authorized to declare, has examined, with the most scrupulous justice, its conduct towards its former friend. It has been led to this by a sincere desire to remove of itself every just cause of complaint ; conceiving that, with the most upright intentions, such cause may possibly exist ; and although the strictest search has produced no self reproach, although the government is conscious that it has uniformly sought to preserve, with fidelity, its engagements to France, yet far from wishing to exercise the privilege of judging for itself on its own course of reasoning and the lights in its own possession, it invites fair and candid discussion ; it solicits a reconsideration of the past ; it is persuaded its intentions, its views, and its actions must have been misrepresented and misunderstood ; it is convinced that the essential interests of both nations will be promoted by reconciliation and peace, and it cherishes the hope of meeting with similar dispositions on the part of the Directory.

“ Guided by these sentiments, the President of the United States has given it in charge to the undersigned to state to the Executive Directory the deep regret which he feels at the loss or suspension of the harmony and friendly intercourse which subsisted between the

two republics, and his sincere wish to restore them; to discuss candidly the complaints of France, and to offer frankly those of the United States: and he has authorized a review of existing treaties and such alterations thereof as shall consist with the mutual interest and satisfaction of the contracting parties.

“ This task the undersigned are anxious to commence; and truly happy will they be, if their exertions can in any degree contribute to restore that friendship, that mutual interchange of good offices which it is alike their wish and their duty to effect between the citizens of the two republics.

“ The undersigned pray you, Citizen Minister, to present this communication to the Executive Directory, and to receive the assurances of their most perfect consideration.

(Signed)

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,
I. MARSHALL,
ELBRIDGE GERRY.

*Paris, November, 11th, in the 22d }
year of the American Independence. }*

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the French Republic.”

No answer having been given to it on the 21st instant, we requested Major Rutledge to wait on the Minister, and inquire of him whether he had communicated the letter to the Directory, and whether we might expect an answer: he replied that he had submitted our letter to them, and that they would direct him what steps to pursue, of which we should be informed. We have not however hitherto received any official intimation relative to this business: we are not yet received; and the condemnation of our vessels for want of a Rôle d'équipage is unremittingly continued.

Frequent and urgent attempts have been made to involve us again into negotiation with persons not officially authorized, of which the obtaining of money is the basis: but we have persisted in declining to have any further communication relative to diplomatic business with persons of that description; and we mean to adhere to this determination. We are sorry to inform you, that the present disposition of the government of this country appears to be as unfriendly toward ours as ever, and that we have very little prospect of succeeding in our mission.

We have the honour to be

Your most obedient humble servants,

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,

J. MARSHALL,

E. GERRY.

Col. PICKERING.

(No. 4.)

Paris, December 24th, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

We have not yet received any answer to our official letter to the Minister of foreign affairs, dated the eleventh of last month, and mentioned in number three: but reiterated attempts have been made to engage us in negotiation with persons not officially authorized; and you will find by the exhibits marked A, B, and C, herewith sent, some important information relative to the views and intentions of the French government with respect to ours. We are all of opinion, that if we were to remain here for six months longer, without we were to stipulate the payment of money, and a great deal of it, in some shape or other, we should not be able to effectuate the objects of our mission, should we be even officially received: unless the projected attempt on England was to fail, or a total change take place in the persons who at present direct

the affairs of this government. In this situation of matters, we are determined, by the tenth of next month, should they remain as they are, to transmit another letter to the minister, representing, as far as may be expedient, the views of our government.

We have the honour to be,

with great respect and regard,

Your most obedient humble servants,

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,

J. MARSHALL,

E. GERRY.

Col. PICKERINGS,

Secretary of State.

E X H I B I T A.

[*Inclosed in the Envoys' Letter, No. 4.*]

On the 14th of December, M. X. called on me in order, as he said, to gain some information relative to some lands in purchased by for whom Soon afterwards General Marshall came in, and then Mr. Gerry's carriage drove into the yard. Here's Mr. Gerry, said General Marshall. I am glad of it, said M. X. for I wished to meet all of you gentlemen, to inform you that M. Y. had another message to you from M. Talleyrand. I immediately expressed my surprise at it, as M. Talleyrand, M. Y. and he, all knew our determination to have no further communication on the subject of our mission, with persons not officially authorized. He replied, that determination was made six weeks ago; and it was presumed that we had changed our opinion. I said that I had not; and I did not believe my colleagues had. At that moment Mr. Gerry entered the room, and I privately acquainted him with the object of M. X.'s visit. General Marshall, Mr. Gerry, and myself then withdrew into ano-

ther room ; and immediately agreed to adhere to our former resolution. M. X. was then called in ; when I acquainted him, in a few words, with our determination : and Mr. Gerry expatiated more at large on the propriety of our acting in this manner, and on the very unprecedented way in which we had been treated, since our arrival.

On the twentieth of December, a lady, who is well acquainted with M. Talleyrand, expressed to me her concern, that we were still in so unsettled a situation : but, adds she, why will not you lend us money ? If you would but make us a loan, all matters would be adjusted : and she added, when you were contending for your revolution, we lent you money. I mentioned the very great difference there was between the situation of the two countries at that period and the present ; and the very different circumstances under which the loan was made us, and the loan was now demanded from us. She replied, we do not make a demand ; we think it more delicate that the offer should come from you : but M. Talleyrand has mentioned to me (who am surely not in his confidence) the necessity of your making us a loan : and I know that he has mentioned it to two or three others ; and that you have been informed of it : and I will assure you, that if you remain here six months longer, you would not advance a single step further in your negotiations, without a loan. If that is the case, I replied, we may as well go away now. Why that possibly, said she, might lead to a rupture ; which you had better avoid : for we know we have a very considerable party in America, who are strongly in our interest.— There is no occasion to enter into a further detail of the conversation. I have only noted this part of it as expressive of what I believe (as far as relates to the loan and a party in America in their favour) to be the

sentiments of the French government with regard to us.

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY.

December 21st, 1797.

EXHIBIT B.

[*Inclosed in the Envoys' Letter No. 4.*]

Extract from General Marshall's Journal.

December 17th 1797. I stepped into Mr. Gerry's apartment, where I saw M. Y. He expressed his regret at having been disabled to dine with us at M. de Beaumarchais, by an inveterate tooth-ache. He then asked me whether I had seen M. de Beaumarchais lately? I told him, not since he dined with us; and that he had left us much indispensed. He then observed, that he had not known until lately that I was the advocate for that gentleman in his cause against the state of Virginia; and that M. de Beaumarchais, in consequence of that circumstance, had expressed sentiments of high regard for me. I replied, that M. de Beaumarchais' cause was of great magnitude, very uncertain issue,—and consequently that a portion of the interest he felt in it would very naturally be transferred to his advocate. He immediately said (low and apart) that M. de Beaumarchais had consented, provided his claim could be established, to sacrifice fifty thousand pounds sterling of it, as the private gratification which had been required of us; so that the gratification might be made without any actual loss to the American Government. I answered, that a gratification on any terms, or in any form, was a subject which we approached with much fear and difficulty, as we were not authorized by our government to make one; nor had it been expected that one would be necessary: that I could not undertake to say whether my colleagues would con-

sent to it, in any state of things ; but I could undertake to say, no one of us would consent to it, unless it was preceded or accompanied by a full and entire recognition of the claims of our citizens, and a satisfactory arrangement on the objects of our mission. He said it was in the expectation of that event only that he mentioned it. We parted : and I stated the conversation to General Pinckney, who was disinclined to any stipulation of the sort, and considered it as a renewal of the old reprobated system of indirect, unauthorized negotiation.

Having been originally the counsel of M. de Beaumarchais, I had determined, and so I informed General Pinckney, that I would not, by my voice, establish any agreement in his favour ; but that I would positively oppose any admission of the claim of any French citizen, if not accompanied with the admission of the claims of the American citizens of property captured and condemned for want of a rôle d'équipage. My reason for conceiving that this ought to be stipulated expressly, was a conviction that if it was referred to commissioners, it would be committing absolutely to chance as complete a right as any individuals ever possessed. General Pinckney was against admitting the claim at any rate.

After my return, Mr. Gerry came into my room, and told me that M. Y. had called on him, to accompany him on a visit to M. Talleyrand ; that he proposed seeing M. Talleyrand, and returning the civility of the dinner ; and endeavouring to bring about some intercourse between him and us.

December 18. General Pinckney and Mr. Gerry met in my room ; and Mr. Gerry detailed to us the conversations mentioned in our public letter. The proposition relative to the claim of M. de Beaumarchais is entirely different from my understanding of it, in the very brief statement made to me by M.

Y. We resolved that we would rigidly adhere to the rule we had adopted, to enter into no negotiation with persons not formally authorized to treat with us. We came also to the determination to prepare a letter to the Minister of Foreign Relations, stating the object of our mission and discussing the subjects of difference between the two nations, in like manner as if we had been actually received; and to close the letter with requesting the government to open the negotiation with us, or to grant us our passports.

E X H I B I T C.

[Inclosed in the Envoys' Letter No. 4.]

December 13. Mr. Gerry accidentally calling on General Pinckney, found M. X. and was soon informed that his object was to obtain another interview between the Ministers and M. Y. on the affairs of their mission. General Marshall happening also to be there, we retired into another room, and immediately agreed to adhere to our former determination, not to have any more informal communications. M. X. having been called in, General Pinckney briefly communicated our determination: and Mr. Gerry observed, that he was much hurt by this proposition; that the Ministers had already proceeded farther in this mode of communication than perhaps they could justify; that they had refused, six weeks ago, to renew it; and that some regard ought to be paid to their feelings, which had been sufficiently mortified; that the proposition was disrespectful to the Envoys, as it betrayed a belief that they had lost the sense of their dignity, and were indeed incompetent to their office; that had there been but one Envoy extraordinary, he ought to have had an audience in a few days; and that for three to remain between two and three months in this situation, was too humiliating, too

debasing for any nation to submit to it; that for his own part, had he been sent to any other nation in Europe, with two other Envoys, he would not have consented to have remained in such a state ten days; that knowing the great desire of the government and nation of the United States to be at peace with France, he had, with his colleagues, submitted to this indignity, at the risque of the severe censure of the former. — Having also enquired of M. X. at what time M. Talleyrand could be seen, the former said he would enquire of M. Y. who on the 16th in the evening, sent, in Mr. Gerry's absence from his lodgings, a billet as follows; " M. Y. has the honor to present his respects to Mr. Gerry, and to inform him that he will have the honor to wait on him to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, to go together to the Minister of Foreign Relations. He is with respect" &c. On the morning of the 17th M. Y. came in while Mr. Gerry was at breakfast, not having received an answer to his note: and Mr. Marshall coming in, M. Y. took him aside and conferred with him a considerable time; after which the former and the rest of the family left the room: and M. Y. and Mr. Gerry being together, Mr. Gerry told him that his object in seeing M. Talleyrand was to return a civility, by requesting him to fix a day for dining with Mr. G. who intended to invite his colleagues; by this interview to promote, if possible, a better understanding between the Minister and the American Envoys; and Mr. G. also proposed to confer with the Minister on the disagreeable situation the Envoys were in, and to state to him some reports which appeared to be founded, respecting a proposition before the Directory for sending off all Americans in a short period: but Mr. Gerry added, that he could not hear a word on the subject of the mission, or the preliminaries to a negotiation; as the Envoys had determined unanimously against any

informal communications on the subject. M. Y, in answer said, that Mr. Marshall had just heard him on a subject of this kind; and that we might consider it, as he did, merely as a conversation between ourselves. He then stated that two measures which M. Talleyrand proposed being adopted, a restoration of friendship between the republics would follow immediately; the one was a gratuity of fifty thousand pounds sterling, the other a purchase of thirty two million of the Dutch rescriptions: that as to the first, M. de Beaumarchais had recovered in a cause depending in Virginia, between that state and himself, one hundred forty five thousand pounds sterling; that there was an appeal from the judgment; that he would sign an act to relinquish forty five thousand pounds, if the whole should be finally recovered, leaving only one hundred thousand pounds for himself; that the forty five thousand pounds might accrue to the United States, who would, in that case, lose but a small part of the fifty thousand pounds; that the purchase of sixteen million of rescriptions would amount to but one million three hundred thirty three thousand [pounds] six shillings and eight pence sterling, which, with an interest of five per cent, would be certainly paid by the government of Holland to the United States, and leave them without any loss; that more than half the sum may now be hired in Holland, on the credit of the rescriptions, and an easy arrangement be made for payment by short instalments, which might be obtained also by a loan; that it was worthy the attention of the Envoys to consider whether by so small a sacrifice they would establish a peace with France, or whether they would risk the consequences; that if nothing could be done by the Envoys, arrangement would be made forthwith to ravage the coasts of the United States by frigates from St. Domingo; that small states which had offended

France were suffering by it ; that Hamburg and other cities in that quarter would within a month or two have their governments changed ; that Switzerland would undergo the same operation ; and that Portugal would probably be in a worse predicament ; that the expedition against England would be certainly pursued ; and that the present period was the most favourable, if we wished to adopt any measure for a pacification.—Mr. Gerry, in answer, said, that if the French were disposed to pursue with vengeance the United States, they might perhaps ravage their coasts and injure them in this way, but they never could subdue them : the measure he thought utterly impracticable, even if attempted by France and her allies. To which M. Y. assented. Mr. Gerry observed further, that the ravages alluded to would undoubtedly closely connect the United States and Great Britain, and prevent the former from returning to the friendship which they have ever had for France ; that as to the propositions, he should express no opinion on them ; that his situation and that of his colleagues was extremely difficult ; that the Directory were exclusively prejudiced against the government of the United States, and considered them as the friends of Great Britain ; that if the envoys could have an opportunity of being heard, they could remove such impressions, and show that the government were the friends of France as much as of Great Britain ; but that the Envoys were now in the most painful situation ; that they were treated, in the eyes of all Europe and of the American government and nation, with the utmost contempt, and were submitting to indignities which they could not reconcile to their feelings or justify to their constituents. M. Y. said that the observations were just : but that the American Envoys had not experienced worse treatment than other ministers, nor indeed as bad ; that the Envoy

of Portugal was again ordered to depart ; and that but little ceremony was observed to the Envoys in general. M. Y. and Mr. Gerry then took a ride to M. Talleyrand's Bureau, who received them politely and after being seated, Mr. Gerry observed to M. Talleyrand, in English, slowly, that M. Y. had stated to him that morning some propositions as coming from M. Talleyrand, respecting which Mr. Gerry could give no opinion : that his object at this interview was, to request of him information whether he would fix a time for taking a dinner with Mr. Gerry at which he proposed to invite his colleagues ; that he wished for more frequent interviews of some kind or other between himself and the envoys ; conceiving that many imaginary difficulties which obstructed the negociation would vanish by this means ; and that those which were real would be surmounted : that conceiving the delicate part which the Minister of France had to act ; at this time, he did not wish M. Talleyrand to accept the invitation if it would subject him to inconveniences : that he wished to speak on another subject ; and it was painful to him to acknowledge that the precarious situation of the Envoys was such as to render it impossible for them to take measures for decent arrangements ; that a short time since he had supposed measures were taking a favourable turn ; but that lately he had received, from various quarters, information of a report made by the minister of the interior, and under the consideration of the Directory, for sending all Americans from Paris in twenty-four hours ; that he could not be responsible for the truth of the information, but it appeared to him, as well from the various quarters from which it came, as from the intelligence of the person who gave it, to be highly probable ; that if this was the case, it was unnecessary for the Directory, as he conceived, to pass any arrête, as it respected the Envoys, for that they would depart from Paris whenever

it was hinted as the wish of the Directory; that for his own part he should feel more at ease, until we were received, to reside in a city of some other nation than that of France; and to return to Paris on notice that the Directory were disposed to open the negotiation. M. Talleyrand appeared to be very uneasy at this declaration; but avoided saying a word on it. He said that the information M. Y. had given me was just, and might always be relied on: but that he would reduce to writing his propositions; which he accordingly did; and after he had shown them to Mr. Gerry, he burnt the paper. The substance was as follows. [See No. 1. below.]

He then said, that he accepted of the invitation; that he would dine with him the decade after the present, in which he was engaged.

Mr. Gerry did not repeat all that he had said to M. Y. having no doubt he would communicate the whole to M. Talleyrand. And, after expressing a friendship for the French Republic, and a warm desire to renew the former attachment of the two republics, which M. Talleyrand warmly reciprocated, M. Gerry bid M. Talleyrand adieu; leaving with him M. Y.

(No. 1.)

That the Envoys should come forward generally, and say:

“ France has been serviceable to the United States, and now they wish to be serviceable to France: understanding that the French Republic has sixteen million of Dutch rescriptions to sell, the United States will purchase them at par, and will give her further assistance when in their power.

“ The first arrangement being made, the French government will take measures for reimbursing the equitable demands of America arising from prizes, and to give free navigation to their ships in future.”

(No. 5.)

Paris, January 8th, 1798.

DEAR SIR,

We embrace an unexpected opportunity to send you the “Redacteur” of the fifth instant, containing the message of the Directory to the Council of Five Hundred, urging the necessity of a law to declare as good prize, all neutral ships having on board merchandizes and commodities, the production of England, or of the English possessions, that the flag, as they term it, may no longer cover the property:—And declaring further that the ports of France, except in case of distress, shall be shut against all neutral ships, which, in the course of their voyage, shall have touched at an English port. A commission has been appointed to report on the message, and it is expected that a decree will be passed in conformity to it.

Nothing new has occurred since our last, in date of the twenty-fourth ultimo. We can only repeat that there exists no hope of our being officially received by this government, or that the objects of our mission will be in any way accomplished.

We have the honour to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servants,

CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY,

J. MARSHALL,

E. GERRY.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Esquire.

Postscript to a triplicate of the Envoys' letter No. 5. received 30th March, 1798.

The law abovementioned has been passed unanimously by the Council of Five Hundred, and we inclose a journal containing the account. There is no doubt, but that it will be adopted, without opposition by the Council of Ancients.

TRANSLATION.

Message to the Council of Five Hundred, of the 15th Nivose, 6th year, (4th of Jan. 1798.)

CITIZENS REPRESENTATIVES,

On this day, the fifteenth of Nivose, and at the very hour at which the Executive Directory addresses this message to you, the municipal administrators, the justices of the peace, the commissaries of the directory, and the superintendants of the customs, are proceeding, in all the chief places of the departments, in all the ports, and in all the principal communes of the republic, to seize the English merchandize now in France, or introduced into its territory, in contravention of the law of the tenth Brumaire, fifth year (Oct. 31st, 1796.)

Such is the first act by which, now that peace is given to the continent, the war declared long since against England, is about to assume the real character which becomes it. The French will not suffer a power, which seeks to found its prosperity upon the misfortune of other nations, to raise its commerce upon the ruin of that of other states, and which, aspiring to the dominion of the seas, wishes to introduce, every where, the articles of its own manufacture, and to receive nothing from foreign industry—any longer to enjoy the fruit of its guilty speculations.

The English government has kept in pay, during the war, the coalesced forces, with the produce of its manufactures. It has violated all the principles of the law of nations, in order to shackle the relations of neutral powers; it has caused to be seized the provisions, corn, and commodities, which it supposed to be destined for France: it has declared contraband every thing which it thought could be useful to the republic; It desired to starve it. All the citizens call for vengeance.

When it had to fear the capture of vessels sailing under its flag, it corrupted foreign captains to induce them to take on board their vessels English merchandize, and thus to introduce it, by stratagem, by fraud or otherwise, into other states, and especially into the French Republic.

The neutral powers should have perceived, that, by this conduct, their merchants took part in the war, and that they lent assistance to one of the belligerent powers.

We serve a party, as well when we procure for it the means of augmenting its forces, as when we unite ourselves to those which it has. The neutral powers should have perceived, that, England, by stopping the vessels of other powers, laden in their respective ports, and destined for France, by permitting articles coming from her own manufactories alone to circulate, aimed at an exclusive commerce, and that it would be necessary to seek reparation for such an attempt.

The ordinance of the marine, and the regulation of 1704, have declared lawful prize, the vessels and their cargoes in which is found English merchandize belonging to enemies. These provisions should be extended. The interest of Europe requires it.

The directory thinks it urgent and necessary to pass a law declaring that the character of vessels, relative to their quality of neutral or enemy, shall be determined by their cargo, and the cargo shall be no longer covered by the flag: in consequence, that every vessel found at sea, having on board English provisions and merchandize as her cargo, in whole or in part, shall be declared lawful prize, whosoever may be the proprietor of these provisions or merchandize; which shall be reputed contraband, for this cause alone, that they come from England or her possessions.

It would be useful to declare, at the same time, that except in the case of distress, the ports of the republic shall be shut to all foreign vessels, which, in the

course of their voyage, shall of
England.

The Executive Directory requests S. n's representatives, to adopt these measures. No neutral or allied power can mistake their object, nor complain of them, unless it be already abandoned to England. The infallible effect of the measure is to enhance the value of the produce of their own soil and industry, to increase the prosperity of their commerce, to repel every thing that comes from England, and essentially to influence the conclusion of the war.

Such are the motives which induce the Executive Directory to invite you, citizens representatives, to take the object of this message into the most prompt consideration.

(Signed,) P. BARRAS, President,
LAGARDE, Secretary-General.

Plan of a decree reported by M. Villers to the Council of Five Hundred, in its sitting of the 11th of January, 1798, translated from a Paris paper entitled Journal du Soir, of the same day, inclosed in the triplicate of the Envoys' Letter, No. 5. dated 8th January, 1798.

" First, The character of a vessel, relative to the quality of neuter or enemy, is determined by her cargo.

" In consequence, every vessel loaded in whole or in part with English merchandize, is declared lawful prize, whoever the owner of the said merchandize may be.

" 2d, Every foreign vessel which, in the course of her voyage, shall have entered an English port, shall not enter France, except in case of distress: she shall depart thence as soon as the causes of her entry shall have ceased."

This decree was immediately and unanimously adopted.

